

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN SEPTEMBER 2006

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in September 2006 was 65,600 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in September was 2,190 t, 9% higher than that in August and 6% higher than that in September 2005. Mine production for the first 9 months of 2006 was about 2% lower than that for the first 9 months of 2005. Reported consumption of 62,100 t of zinc was 3% lower than that in August and 5% lower than that in September 2005.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade Zinc for the month of September was 166.60 cents per pound, 2% higher than the August average price but an increase of 145% from the September 2005 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price for September increased to \$3,402.25 per metric ton of

zinc, 2% higher than the price in August but a 144% increase compared with the price in September 2005. During September 2006, global LME zinc stocks dropped by 33,375 t to 139,125 t.

The Defense National Stockpile Center aggregated cash disposal (sale) of zinc in September, under the monthly Basic Ordering Agreement DLA-Zinc-004, was approximately 3,069 t (3,383 short tons), with an approximate value of \$10.8 million (Defense National Stockpile Center, 2006).

Reference Cited

Defense National Stockpile Center, 2006, Stockpile announces zinc BOA sales for September 2006: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, October 5, 1 p.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2005	2006			
	January- December	July	August	September	January- September
Production:					
Mine, zinc content of concentrate	748,000	67,100	64,700 ^r	68,200	552,000
Mine, recoverable zinc	720,000	64,700	62,300 ^r	65,600	531,000
Smelter, refined zinc ²	259,000	22,100 ^e	19,200 ^e	24,100 ^e	185,000 ^e
Consumption:					
Refined zinc, reported	405,000	32,400	33,400	31,400	303,000
Ores ^e (zinc content)	727	61	61	61	546
Zinc-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	191,000	15,900	15,900	15,900	143,000
Copper-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	176,000	14,700	14,700	14,700	132,000
Aluminum-and magnesium-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	1,430	120	120	120	1,080
Total ^e	774,000	63,200	64,200	62,100	579,000
Apparent consumption, metal ³	939,000	95,800	93,000	117,000 ⁴	837,000
Stocks of refined (slab) zinc, end of period:					
Producer ⁵	XX	6,340 ^e	6,450 ^e	7,110 ^e	XX
Consumer ⁶	XX	54,700	55,500	49,400	XX
Merchant	XX	10,400	10,400	10,400	XX
Total	XX	71,400	72,300	66,900	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	20,400	907	1,810	3,070	16,300
Imports for consumption:					
Refined (slab) zinc	668,000	73,000	84,800	NA	561,000 ⁷
Oxide (gross weight)	109,000	9,960	13,000	NA	90,200 ⁷
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	156,000	115,000	42,700	NA	214,000 ⁷
Exports:					
Refined (slab) zinc	784	74	--	NA	949 ⁷
Oxide (gross weight)	14,600	2,660	2,440	NA	18,800 ⁷
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	786,000	36,100	276,000	NA	398,000 ⁷
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	56,000	6,820	11,000	NA	48,000 ⁷
Price:					
London Metal Exchange, average, dollars per metric ton	1,381.37	3,338.80	3,346.00	3,402.25	2,965.03
Platts Metals Week North American Special High Grade, average, cents per pound	67.14	163.73	163.83	166.60	144.20

^eEstimated. NA Not available. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; except prices; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

³Smelter production plus imports minus exports plus shipments from Government stockpile plus stock change.

⁴Data based on reported consumption, stocks, and estimated trade data.

⁵Data from U.S. Geological Survey and American Bureau of Metal Statistics.

⁶Includes an estimate for companies that report annually.

⁷Includes data through August only.

TABLE 2
REFINED ZINC PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Month	Beginning stocks ³	Production	Shipments	Ending stocks ³
2005:				
September	6,960	19,900	22,500	4,390
October	4,390	22,600	23,000	4,010
November	4,010	24,600	24,500	4,040
December	4,040	23,700	22,200	5,590
January-December	XX	259,000	258,000	XX
2006:				
January	5,590	21,200 ^e	20,100 ^e	6,750
February	6,750	19,000 ^e	20,200 ^e	5,530
March	5,530	22,100 ^e	21,100 ^e	6,580
April	6,580	19,300 ^e	18,800 ^e	7,150
May	7,150	19,100 ^e	19,900 ^e	6,300
June	6,300	19,200 ^e	19,000 ^e	6,510
July	6,510	22,100 ^e	22,300 ^e	6,340
August	6,340	19,200 ^e	19,100 ^e	6,450
September	6,450	24,100 ^e	23,400 ^e	7,110
January-September	XX	185,000 ^e	184,000 ^e	XX

^eEstimated. XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

³Includes stocks held at locations other than smelters.

Sources: U.S. Geological Survey and American Bureau of Metal Statistics.

TABLE 3
APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF REFINED ZINC ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY USE AND
PRODUCT¹

(Metric tons)

Industry and product	2005	2006			
	January- December	July	August	September ²	January- September
Galvanizing:					
Sheet and strip	392,000	39,800	38,100	47,100	345,000
Other	121,000	14,000	13,200	18,700	119,000
Total	513,000	53,800	51,300	65,800	464,000
Brass and bronze	147,000	14,200	14,700	18,200	131,000
Zinc-base alloy	203,000	20,500	19,900	24,900	179,000
Other uses ³	76,900	7,300	7,100	8,400	63,900
Grand total	939,000	95,800	93,000	117,000	837,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Data based on reported consumption, stocks, and estimated trade data.

³Includes zinc used in making zinc dust, desilvering lead, powder, alloys, anodes, chemicals, castings, light metal alloys, rolled zinc, and miscellaneous uses not elsewhere specified.

TABLE 4
AVERAGE ZINC PRICES¹

Period	North American ¢/lb.	LME ² cash	
		¢/lb.	\$/t
2005:			
September	67.89	63.37	1,397.08
October	72.66	67.49	1,487.91
November	78.47	73.06	1,610.61
December	88.01	82.62	1,821.44
January-December	67.14	62.66	1,381.37
2006:			
January	100.96	94.80	2,089.92
February	106.84	100.65	2,218.90
March	116.80	109.61	2,416.44
April	148.56	139.88	3,083.75
May	172.59	161.68	3,564.51
June	157.93	146.27	3,224.66
July	163.73	151.45	3,338.80
August	163.83	151.77	3,346.00
September	166.60	154.32	3,402.25
January-September	144.20	134.49	2,965.03

¹Special High Grade.

²London Metal Exchange.

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC¹

Material	2005		2006 ²			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	August		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	784	\$1,500	--	--	949	\$1,960
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	786,000	477,000	276,000	\$379,000	398,000	478,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	56,000	62,000	11,000	12,800	48,000	61,100
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	9,310	18,500	1,460	2,900	9,440	18,300
Oxide (gross weight)	14,600	23,600	2,440	3,830	18,800	29,600
Chloride (gross weight)	1,860	2,310	199	261	930	1,130
Sulfate (gross weight)	2,820	1,870	118	82	16,200	10,400
Compounds, other (gross weight)	1,130	887	47	565	555	1,500

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Data for September 2006 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC¹

Material	2005		2006 ²			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	August		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	668,000	\$875,000	84,800	\$211,000	561,000	\$1,160,000
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	156,000	117,000	42,700	30,800	214,000	132,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	9,580	8,820	1,120	1,370	9,300	11,300
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	23,400	46,000	3,080	11,900	19,400	63,000
Oxide (gross weight)	109,000	127,000	13,000	26,700	90,200	157,000
Chloride (gross weight)	723	1,250	52	125	881	1,280
Sulfate (gross weight)	31,100	16,600	3,820	3,100	28,200	18,800
Compounds, other (gross weight)	7,010	6,370	128	279	4,260	3,110

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Data for September 2006 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
SHIPMENTS OF ZINC METAL FROM THE NATIONAL DEFENSE
STOCKPILE¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Beginning inventory	Shipments	Ending inventory
2005:			
September	55,800	3,710	52,100
October	52,100	3,010	49,100
November	49,100	2,830	46,300
December	46,300	299	46,000
January-December	XX	20,400	XX
2006:			
January	46,000	1,890	44,100
February	44,100	526	43,600
March	43,600	1,720	41,900
April	41,900	2,810	39,000
May	39,000	301	38,700
June	38,700	3,270	35,500
July	35,500	907	34,600
August	34,600	1,810	32,800
September	32,800	3,070	29,700
January-September	XX	16,300	XX

XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Defense Logistics Agency.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS OF ZINC, BY TYPE OF MATERIAL AND COUNTRY^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Material and country	General imports			Imports for consumption		
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
		August	Year to date		August	Year to date
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Australia	8,590	--	2,850	8,590	--	2,850
Ireland	13,000	--	12,600	13,000	--	12,600
Mexico	27,300	28,700	55,300	27,300	28,700	55,300
Peru	104,000	14,000	141,000	104,000	14,000	141,000
Other	2,900	--	2,240	2,900	--	2,240
Total	156,000	42,700	214,000	156,000	42,700	214,000
Blocks, pigs, or slab:						
Australia	1	--	10,000	24,600	2,980	38,700
Brazil	43,700	--	6,460	43,800	401	8,270
Canada	439,000	47,500	354,000	439,000	47,500	354,000
China	15	--	3	2,140	9,610	45,300
Japan	--	--	251	1,210	890	6,150
Korea, Republic of	5,030	--	--	8,710	4,250	42,400
Mexico	147,000	13,200	56,700	147,000	13,200	57,000
Norway	--	--	--	--	25	1,160
Peru	235	49	243	834	49	521
Other	1,320	5,820	5,840	1,770	5,820	7,560
Total	636,000	66,600	433,000	668,000	84,800	561,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	15,800	3,440	22,700	15,800	3,440	22,700
Grand total	807,000	113,000	670,000	840,000	131,000	798,000
Oxide (gross weight):						
Canada	62,000	4,040	34,900	62,000	4,040	34,900
China	173	14	131	173	14	131
Italy	15,400	5,030	19,400	15,400	5,030	19,400
Japan	1,080	99	790	1,080	99	790
Mexico	24,100	2,700	20,800	24,100	2,700	20,800
Netherlands	4,450	934	4,990	4,450	934	4,990
Other	2,040	152	9,190	2,040	152	9,190
Total	109,000	13,000	90,200	109,000	13,000	90,200
Other (gross weight):						
Waste and scrap	9,580	1,120	9,300	9,580	1,120	9,300
Sheets	3,630	333	1,530	3,630	333	1,530
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	23,400	3,080	19,400	23,400	3,080	19,400

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Data for September 2006 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.